

notes from Hosanna FEBRUARY 2009
HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH **Volume 23 Nbr. 2**
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GOD'S JOURNEY WITH US

_____ We were a group of eighteen people who had covenanted to study the Bible together and the implications that might have for personal and congregational life for a period of two years. It is a long time, I know, but these were committed, dynamic congregational members; members of faith. The first little while was a time of "feeling out", a "getting to know one another better" period, plus an opportunity to explore some of our inner feelings. The exploration of inner feelings part can be a little intimidating, particularly if all of a sudden you find yourself in new or virgin territory. Some place you've never been before can evoke feelings of wonder, awe, excitement and adventure, or feelings of insecurity, danger, anxiety and fear of the unknown. If someone takes you where you do not want to go, it is very easy to dig in your heels and become angry and defensive.

I had just asked people to draw a line map of their spiritual journey over the last twenty-five years. I had no sooner finished my explanation then one of our group rose without a word, pulled on his coat, yanked his cap down over his head and without a word walked straight out of the room. Fortunately we were in no imminent danger of losing his commitment or involvement, but for that evening he was through! The incident became a gift that, through mutual conversation, allowed each of us to come to know ourselves and each other more deeply. I came to respect his personal boundaries and perspectives and he helped me build a cradle in time for the birth of our first daughter. Such is the unexpected nature of journeying together with God and with one another in faith!

One way of describing Scripture is to say that it is the account of salvation history. It is the story of how God journeys with us and of God's persistence (faithfulness) in seeking us out and desiring above all else to establish a relationship with humanity, personally and collectively. Many times I hear people ask, "I'd like to read the Bible, Pastor, but I don't know where to start," or "I've been reading through scripture and it is hard to understand. I don't get it."

Beginning February 1 we are beginning an exciting journey, entitled "God's Journey with Us". Hopefully you have already seen adult forum posters around the

church and received an announcement in your mail box. This is your invitation to join in a unique Bible overview. Together we will explore the eight core stories of the Bible. It is what theologian Walter Brueggemann calls "the primal narrative - the most simple, elemental, and non-negotiable story line that lies at the heart of biblical faith". It will conclude with three sessions on, "How to read and understand scripture", "The context of Jesus' ministry" and "The ongoing journey of faith".

Join us as often as you can. It will take us through the season of Lent and into Easter, ending Sunday, May 3. I promise not to ask you to draw a line map of your spiritual journey, but I make no promises about how God may enter into our lives and journey with us during this time.

Peace, Pastor Ron.

NEWS FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee has been meeting regularly as the search continues for a new Team Leader. We continue to ask for your support, prayers and patience as the process moves forward.

The Call Committee announces:

<p>A Meet and Greet event Monday, Feb. 9, 7:30 pm at Hosanna</p>

This is an informal social event to give the people of Hosanna an opportunity to meet a potential candidate for Team Leader/Senior pastor at Hosanna. Earlier that day, the Call Committee will be conducting a formal interview with the potential candidate. Due to Synod Call process regulations and in respect of both the candidate and Hosanna's position, the name of the person being interviewed is not being published at this time. Please direct any questions or concerns to any member of the committee.

Epiphany Continues !!!

The season of Epiphany in 2009 is three weeks longer than it was in 2008, thus encompassing all four Sundays in the month of February. We will continue to emphasize and celebrate the Light of the World that is Jesus Christ during the remainder of the season of Epiphany, through using the Communion Liturgy "The Light of Christ" found in *With One Voice*, and singing a variety of hymns and songs that reflect our worship of Him.

The season will end on February 22 with the celebration of the Transfiguration of Our Lord - a festival that serves as a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle and the Lent-Easter cycle. At 7:00 p.m. on February 22 we are having a Healing Service with Holy Communion using the music of Taizé.

The Lent-Easter cycle begins on Wednesday, February 25, with our Ash Wednesday Communion service, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Mid-week services continue each Wednesday during the season of Lent, March 4 to April 1 at 7:00 pm with the sharing of faith stories followed by Holden Evening Prayer.

May the light of Christ, revealed in this special season, keep you and guide you.

In Christ,
Evelyn, Director of Worship and Music

SERVICE OF HEALING AND LIGHT using music from the Taizé Community Sunday evening, 7:00 pm, FEBRUARY 22, 2009

"May the God of all consolation bless you in every way and grant you hope all the days of your life." Our Lord Jesus healed many who were sick as a sign of the reign of God come near, and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing. At Hosanna, we are invited to come together for a Healing Service, a time of prayer for all who are in need of healing and hope, laying on of hands, anointing with oil and holy communion. This quiet, meditative worship time, using the beautiful music from Taizé, is for all who seek healing in their lives: physical, emotional, spiritual, and for those who wish to gather to pray for and support each other.

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY
LUNCH at the Bissell Centre
SUN DAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009

Hosanna will be sharing the responsibility with Trinity United Church of providing lunch for approximately 300 people.

In addition to 90 loaves of sandwiches, pickles, fruit, vegetables and finger desserts, donations of creamer, sugar, juice crystals (2 kg tin), coffee, and clean plastic grocery bags are appreciated.

There is a Sign up sheet on the black counter in the narthex on which to indicate what you will bring. Nine (9) volunteers of all ages will also be needed at the centre on Feb. 22nd.

If you are unable to physically help with provision of food or service, monetary gifts are appreciated to purchase any items that we are short of. (Please give your gift to Bev Boren.)

Food can be delivered to Hosanna's kitchen from 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm on Saturday Feb. 21/09 via the front door. (Please note that the church may not be open every other day while Johanna is on vacation.)

Thank you for your support of this worthy outreach to the inner city. If you have any questions, speak to Bev Boren.

WELCOME TO NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS!

Thank you to those elected to Hosanna's church council at the Annual congregational meeting Jan. 25, and to the members of council continuing their term. At the Jan. 28 orientation meeting of council, elections for executive were held and liaison responsibilities were determined, with results as follows:

Heidi Robinson-Chair,
Nordahl Flakstad-Vice Chair & Personnel,
Dennis Heise-Secretary & Social Ministry,
Millie Dofka-Seniors,
Dan Fessenden-Youth Ministry,
Marlene Grinde-Education,
Richard Hernder-Stewardship,
Russel Hoffman-Fellowship,
Brent Layden-Finance,
Nancy Neumann-Worship & Music,
Ron Vandermeer-Property.

EDUCATION and FAMILY MINISTRIES

At Hosanna we encourage everyone - people of all ages - to take part in some form of ongoing Christian education. Just as we care for our physical, social, and emotional needs, it's important to care for our spiritual need. For more information, please contact Sonja at the church office (780-484-3932).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School is growing! Due to increased numbers in the youngest age group, another class has been added so we can continue to give lots of individual attention to each child. Most classes have the two teachers we require but we will be asking for parent volunteers to fill in a few gaps.

On Family Day, February 15, we invite parents to join their children at Sunday School. Come to the opening worship time and sing, dance and pray with your child, then head to the classroom for Bible story and craft.

During the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Sunday School offerings will go to support the Koh Kandal School Project in Cambodia which aims to provide library books and learning resources to the teachers at the school. Because many students have to travel great distances to go to school and feel pressure to spend time working in the fields, the project will also initiate a bicycle loan program to encourage the students to attend elementary school and continue on to high school. (For more information about this project, check out the website www.mvinge.com.)

The Sunday School continues to have a connection with the Sunday School children in El Salvador. The children made a Christmas card to send along with a DVD recording of our Christmas program. Even though the language will be foreign to them, the Christmas story is universal.

Sunday School meets every week from 10-11 am in the Peace Hall, at the North end of the church. Registration forms for new students are available at the Coordinators' desk every week. Children are welcome to join at any time during the year! For more information about Sunday School, please see the Sunday School newsletter posted on the bulletin board.

Adult Forum

Adult Crossings: God's Journey with Us

The Bible contains hundreds of stories - thousands of names. How does a person begin to understand and remember it all? Join our pastors in the Social Room during the education time between services for this unique Bible overview which explores what many scholars consider the eight core stories of the Bible.

February's topics are:

February 1	God's Call
February 8	The Exodus
February 15	Sinai Covenant
February 22	Promised Land

Come as often as you are able - you do not need to commit to coming each time (although you are certainly encouraged to!)

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Led by Pastor Cliff, this group meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am, after Morning Prayer. Lessons for the upcoming Sunday are studied in some depth. Come once, come every time, come as often as you can - new faces are always welcome!

Women's Bible Study

This month's study is Friday, February 13, 7:30pm at Maureen Lyall's home. The study continues on the theme "Cinderella Syndrome: When Life Is Not a Ball" with the topic "Weren't We Best Friends" using the Serendipity Bible as a study guide. Bring along your Bible (any version) and your sweet tooth! All women invited - new people are always welcome.

Vacation Bible School

Already? Well not quite yet but planning is getting underway. Mark your calendars and plan your holidays around VBS this summer - the week of July 5-9. We'll be looking for volunteers of all ages to help with our craft and activity centres, music, snacks, and all kinds of other things to make this a fun and exciting week for kids - and adults too!

Parenting Series

Winning at Parenting ... without beating your kids!

3 Sunday afternoons - February 15, March 1 and March 15, 1:30 - 3:00pm

Come out to this series to hear Barbara Coloroso's humorous approach to mealtimes, bedtime, chores, discipline, allowance, fighting and other parenting issues. Her philosophy of parenting supports the idea that using a combination of compassion and respect when disciplining a child will teach limits without damaging the child's or the parent's self-esteem. After watching portions of the video, we'll have the opportunity to share and discuss some of her powerful messages on raising children. All parents are invited for this series - the video has practical ideas for all ages, from toddler to adolescent. Child care will be provided by the youth.

SAFETY FOR OUR CHILDREN

The ELCIC Policy for the Protection of Children, Youth and Other Vulnerable People has made us more aware of safety issues for our children. Hosanna is a "second home" to many of us and we may feel comfortable allowing our children to have the same independence here as they do in our own homes. Although we consider most of the people here our "Hosanna family", the church is also open to the public. Doors are often unlocked, allowing anyone to easily enter unnoticed.

Although we try to make it a safe place for our children, the church is not childproofed and the staff has noticed a number of potential areas that could pose a danger to children left unsupervised. The areas of greatest concern are the kitchen (knives, cleaning supplies, appliances, swinging doors, etc.) and office (for both safety and security reasons) but also other areas of the church, where matches may be left lying around, electrical outlets may not be covered, doors don't always get closed to steep stairs and other areas that are not meant for children.

Please help us keep our children safe by ensuring they are supervised, whether playing in the Social room or going to the washroom (including during Sunday worship) and that any child that leaves the building is with an appropriate adult. We love our kids and don't want anything to hurt them.

Hosanna Staff

Early Communion

Children are welcome to receive Communion whenever they are ready. Resources are available for parents to help their children prepare for this sacrament and our pastors would be happy to meet with you individually. Please contact the office (780-484-3932).

SOUP & BUNS at the Jasper Place Health & Wellness Centre

This program continues on Saturdays through February and March. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to cook the soup and/or serve it at the JPHWC. People from Trinity United Church, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, and Spirit West United Church are also involved in this ministry. During the winter months, the JPHWC is open most evenings as a warming centre for the homeless, and the soup and sandwiches are much appreciated.

The dates for which Hosanna is responsible are Saturdays, Feb. 7, 14 and 28th, as well as some March dates. Most of the volunteers are already in place.

Still needed are donations of soup ingredients and ham & buns for the sandwiches. A sign up sheet is posted on our bulletin board with all the details of what is needed for each week; please fill it in as you are able.

STEPHEN MINISTRIES AT HOSANNA

- ◆ Stephen Ministry multiplies the number of care-givers by equipping and mobilizing lay people to provide high-quality Christian care.
- ◆ Stephen Ministry strengthens the ministry of pastors. Typically the needs for care far exceed what pastors can provide. Stephen Ministers help meet these needs, freeing pastors to focus on areas of ministry where they are most needed.
- ◆ Hurting people receive quality Christian care, deepen their relationship with their Lord, and feel supported rather than forgotten.
- ◆ Those with gifts for caregiving nurture and use their gifts in ministry and grow in faith as they see God working through them to touch the lives of others.
- ◆ Congregations have a powerful tool for bringing Christ's love to the inactive and unchurched during times of great need.

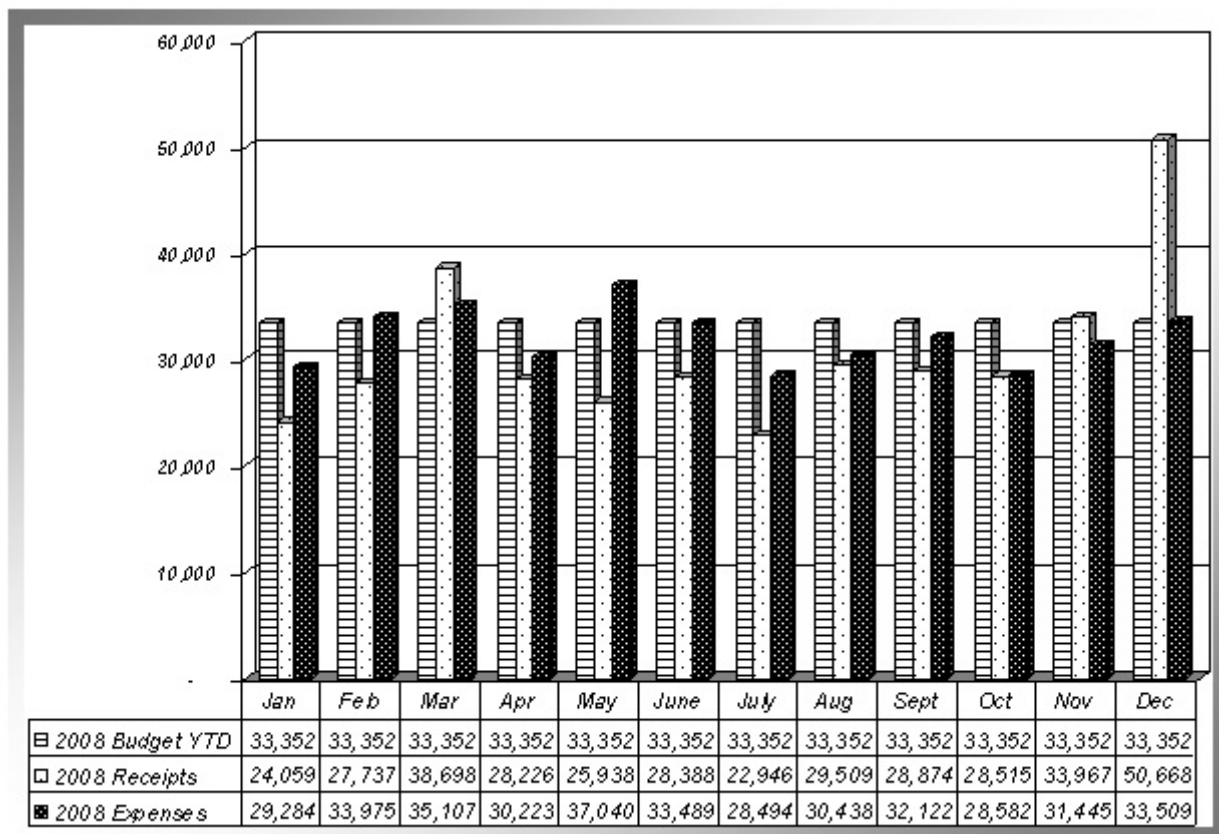
Stephen Ministry congregations become warmer, more loving communities as more people are equipped to care and more lives are touched by Christ's love. If there are any questions about the Stephen Ministry program at Hosanna, please call Barry Couling or the church office.

OUR PRAYER CHAIN

To request prayer for yourself or for others, contact:
 Del Bennett, Dan Wold, or the pastors at 780-484-3932.
 If you are interested in being part of the prayer chain,
 please also contact any of the above.

NEIGHBOURS REQUEST: From down along 163 St., a neighbour has asked if we might refrain from parking on the street in front of people's homes if there is room in our parking lots. Although this is a public street, open to all, we agreed to make public this request.

HOSANNA 2008 RECEIPTS EXPENSES VS. BUDGET



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6—MOVIE NIGHT @ EMILY WOLD'S 7:00-9:30

We'll meet at the church at 7:00 and then head over to the Wold's home. We'll watch a movie in their condo's movie theater, eat snacks and hang out. We'll be back at the church by 9:30. There will be a minimal cost to cover the expense of renting the theater.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2009—BOWLING 7:00-9:30

We'll meet at the church at 7:00 and then head out to do some bowling. Pick up will be 9:30 for this event. Cost and location TBA.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2009—MUFFIN MORNING 10:00

Marvelous Muffins! Stop by and support the youth.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24/09 5:30-6:30 pm

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

The youth are again hosting their famous pancake dinner. All are welcome to come for a time of fellowship. Pancakes and other fixings will be served continuously from 5:30 until 6:30. We hope to see you all there!

A free will offering will be taken to cover the cost of food.

YOUTH FORUM: Starting on Sunday February 15 we'll delve into the mysteries of the Bible. We will be screening an adventure film about an archeological expedition that uncovers some amazing truths about Mount Sinai. Be sure not to miss it! We meet from 10:15-10:45 in the Conference Room each Sunday.

NEEDED: VOLUNTEERS - We can always use an extra helping hand! If you are interested in working with the youth this year please contact Lindsay.

1. **MUFFIN MAKERS** -Please sign up on the youth bulletin board if you are able to bring muffins on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2009** or at any other time during the year, or e-mail lindsay@hosannalutheran.ab.ca.
2. **E-MAIL LIST** - As we live in a technologically advanced society, I would like to compile a list of parent & youth e-mails so that I can make sure to get hold of everyone when there are important youth announcements or events. Please write your e-mail legibly and put it in my mailbox. Thank you!
3. **DRIVERS** - We rely on the help of parents in this area. If you are able to drive at any time throughout the year, please sign up on the youth bulletin board and look forward to a phone call.

COMMUNITY MEAL COMMITTEE

“IF EVERYONE DOES A LITTLE BIT ... ”

This was the comment that we heard from one of our guests, Kay, at our last Community Meal on January 24th, as we were loading her car up with some bags of coats left over after the Meal that she planned to drop off at the Jasper Place Health and Wellness Centre on her way home. We thanked her for offering to taking the coats, and she replied “Well, if everyone takes the time to do a little bit, then it all adds up to a lot getting done to help people that are in need. So I’m going to look after doing my little bit.”

Without knowing it, Kay had hit upon one of the key points of our Community Meal ministry. The ability of the Committee to organize and host the meals depends on the willingness of a lot of people, both members of Hosanna and from the community, to do their “little bits” to help the program succeed. Some of the little bits that get taken care of include: donations of toiletries, socks and underwear; planning a menu; going shopping to purchase the food supplies; delivering them to the church; preparing the volunteer sign up sheet; setting out tables and chairs in the Peace Hall; carefully applying paper to cover the tables; chopping up a great pile of veggies and fruit and meat; organizing coats and toiletries in our “store”; cooking the food on Saturday morning; making up juice and coffee; serving food; filling up drinks; encouraging guests to take home a new coat; sitting with guests and conversing with them; sharing the meal; taking down the tables; vacuuming the Peace Hall; washing dishes - and many more.

There was once a young boy who did his little bit by bringing along five small loaves of bread and two fish to a gathering of thousands listening to an itinerant preacher named Jesus. God took those little bits, and with his love and grace transformed them into something that was wonderful and miraculous. We thank God for taking the little bits that each of us brings to the Community Meal ministry, and for turning them into a form that allows us to engage in a meaningful way with the community of West Edmonton. Thank you Kay for reminding us what our program is all about.

Our last meal on January 24th was another success. We had about 85 guests join us on a bitterly cold day. They enjoyed a delicious meal of ham, scalloped potatoes, carrots, salad and raisin pudding with ice cream and caramel sauce. Thank you to all who volunteered to make this meal happen. We appreciate your commitment and passion for this ministry. Our next meal will be on March 21st. Watch for our volunteer sign up sheet in early March.

The Community Meal Committee

Budget 2009

Who among us has not thought of the state of their financial affairs in the past year? Who among us has not looked at their assets, their obligations and, the entirely all too possible, short fall?

The Federal government presented their budget on January 27th. And, for the first time in many years, Canada is facing a deficit budget --our elected representatives realized that their obligations to the Canadian people and our economy far outweigh Canada's tangible, available assets.

And, just this past Sunday, members of Hosanna gathered for the annual general meeting to reflect on, debate, and eventually approve our own budget for 2009. Certain budgetary lines were challenged and changes made. Preparing and presenting this budget was not an easy task for our "elected" representatives (Council) either.

Of course, our federal representatives are paid to do their jobs. Not so with Hosanna council members. These representatives, and all members of Hosanna, are the "intangible assets" of our congregation. Their worth cannot be measured in dollars and cents. They cannot be factored into a budget line, but none-the-less, they are invaluable. But how do we ensure we have enough? How do we ensure we don't run on a deficit?

It is often said that, as Christians, we should tithe (10%) our gifts to God. Taken literally, this could mean more than just our financial resources. What if we took that one step further and tithed our time? And then, where do we start? We can always find ways to spend money but how do we make the best use of our intangible assets?

This past year, the Stewardship Committee has compiled a binder, which was made available to all committee chairs. It contains ideas and articles dealing with topics such as how to recruit and train volunteers, and how to care for and make the best use of volunteer resources. This could be YOUR starting point. It is important to note that, although some of the resources contained within the binder are ecumenical in origin, much of the content is taken from the published material of organizations that have highly successful track records as volunteer entities.

We invite you to take a look at the binder (on the office counter). The Stewardship Committee is very proud of it and it is our hope that you will find it useful. Of course, it is an ongoing project. We are always looking for material to add. Do you have an article or resource you feel would be useful to others? If so, please contact a Stewardship Committee member (John Campbell, Margaret Sadler or Cindy Schriener). Yours in Christ, The Stewardship Committee

THE CHURCH AT LARGE

The ELCIC Synod of Alberta and the Territories Council has given approval for a draft of the document on Marriage, Family and Human Sexuality in the Alberta Context to be circulated within the Synod for discussion, reflection and response. Bishop Ron Mayan has suggested a period of "discernment and response" extending at least until June 2009, and, if responses received in the Synod office warrant it, preparation of another draft of the document will be considered. You can download the document from the Synod website <http://www.albertasynod.ca/>. If you would like a printed copy, there are a few available above the black counter. The document is 24 pages so please share the copies or read the document online.

IT'S YOUR CALL!

Explore the possibility of a future in ministry....

Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon

invites you to our **OPEN HOUSE -Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009**

WORSHIP with our community in Christ Chapel

SHARE in presentations by our faculty and students

ENGAGE in one-on-one conversation and questions, as well as stimulating group discussion

Enjoy a chance to relax and dine with the COMMUNITY.

(Meals will be provided by the seminary; accommodation available)

RSVP by Feb. 11. For further information, contact Susan, our Registrar at 306-966-7856 or susan.avant@usask.ca

We would also ask the congregations to prayerfully support our current and prospective students. In the last Sheaves (posted on the round kiosk at Hosanna) one of our current students wrote an excellent article on how the Open House experience was valuable to him for a variety of reasons. His article can be found at

<http://www.usask.ca/stu/luther/open-house-article.pdf>

PROPERTY MANAGER: Mulhurst Lutheran Church Camp is looking for a full-time, year-round Property Manager. This position will be responsible for the grounds keeping, general maintenance, hosting and welcoming rental groups and some administrative duties. The successful individual will be committed to the mission of the camp, be self motivated and work together with the Board of Directors, summer staff and volunteers. Onsite accommodation is an optional

benefit with this position. Applications and further inquiries may be submitted to director@mulhurstlutherancamp.ca.

EXECUTIVE CAMP DIRECTOR: Hastings Lake Bible Camp is looking to expand their ministry with the help of a full-time, year-round Executive Director. This position will be responsible for all aspects of the camp, including property, program development, promotion, fundraising, camp rentals, etc. The successful individual will be committed to the mission of the camp, which is to Make Christ Known, and be a self-motivated leader with strong public relations skills. Onsite accommodation is an optional benefit with this position. Applications may be submitted to HastingsLake@Gmail.com. The position will be open until a suitable candidate is found. Only candidates chosen for the interview process will be contacted.

NEWS RELEASE From the National Office of the ELCIC (January 22, 2009)

ELCIC and ELCA Bishops Reflect on Recent Trip to Middle East; Amid Darkness Bishops Witness Signs of Hope

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) National Bishop Susan C. Johnson and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson released a report today reflecting on their recent visit to the Holy Land and sharing stories of both the darkness and light they experienced as part of the journey. The trip allowed the bishops to witness first-hand, "the daily and increasing limitations of human rights in the region," which they felt would be impossible to do without travelling to the Middle East and, "talking with people about their experiences and hopes and fears."

The North American leaders, 42 synod bishops, as well as spouses and staff members, participated in a weeklong series of meetings with religious, political and community leaders in Israel and the West Bank from Jan. 6-13. The trip, part of the 2009 Bishops' Academy, had been in the works for over two years and was planned, "as a witness to God's will for a just peace for all people and as an expression of accompaniment with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and ministries of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF)," says the report.

Just weeks prior to the start of the trip violence broke out in Gaza raising concerns about the safety of academy attendees. After prayerful consideration and communication with people who live and work in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the trip continued as planned. With scripture and worship framing the daily agenda, the bishops say they felt God's Word coming alive in startling and powerful ways which further shaped their days and learning. As an affirmation, the bishops heard many variations of the words, "You came at just the right time to uphold our spirit."

A full version of the "Report and Reflections from the Bishops' Academy Visit to the Holy Land" is online:

<http://www.elcic.ca/Documents/academyreportJan09FINAL.pdf>

Highlights, pictures and news releases from the 2009 Bishops' Academy can be viewed online: <http://elcic.ca/From-the-Bishop/default.cfm>

Bolivian church gains female leadership Nov. 6

The Evangelical Bolivian Lutheran Church (Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana - IELB) has for the first time elected a woman as its vice-president. Bertha Uturunco de Catunta will serve in this role for the church, which has about 11,000 members in about 110 congregations. A high proportion of church members are of Aymara ethnicity; the Aymara language is one of three official languages in Bolivia. Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) works with communities in Bolivia that consist mainly of indigenous peoples, including Aymarans, and maintains a close relationship with the IELB. The national church participates in CLWR activities and learning workshops, which help to strengthen their leadership capacity.

"We do a lot of work with women in Bolivia in general—helping them integrate into community groups and take leadership roles," says Wendy Kroeker, CLWR's program manager for Latin America. "It was my pleasure to meet Bertha earlier this year, and she is an energetic, passionate person who will bring real life to the position."

- CLWR News Service

Sat. , Feb. 7, 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 noon Trinity Lutheran Church

LUTHERAN RESOURCES ON MAKING RELIGIOUS CLAIMS IN THE PUBLIC REALM OF CULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY OR POLITICS.

A cacophony of religious voices seeking to influence public culture, opinion, and policy pervades the public discourse today. Some publicly orientated religious claims inspire social change. Other claims may not effect change. Some are appropriate and others may not be appropriate. Sorely needed are criteria for

making that distinction. This workshop asks: What are criteria for appropriate, valid and effective use of religious claims, language, and symbols in deliberation and decision-making about public policy? What particular gifts do Lutheran traditions bring to shaping those criteria?

We have the good fortune of having Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda with us, a Lutheran theologian who has consulted widely and internationally on these issues. Dr. Moe-Lobeda lectures and consults internationally and nationally in theology and ethics
Contact David Goa at 780.679.1104 david.goa@ualberta.ca

www.augustana.ca/ronning

Cell phone vs. Bible

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible
like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several time a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go....hmm...where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing.

Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible
being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities?

And no dropped calls!